

Message Text

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TAGS: EEC, EFIN, PLOS, COMECON, TU, YO, IR, EAID, UNCTAD

SUBJECT: EC FOREIGN MINISTERS COUNCIL, OCTOBER 18-19, 1976:

FIRST DAY HIGHLIGHTS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 10178

1. SUMMARY: THE FISHERIES QUESTION DOMINATED THE EC FOREIGN MINISTERS OCTOBER 18 COUNCIL SESSION IN LUXEMBOURG. A WORKING GROUP OF COMMISSION AND PERMDEL EXPERTS WAS ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE POINTS OF DISAGREEMENT AND TO REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL OCTOBER 19. DURING THE MONDAY MEETING, THE MINISTERS ALSO DISCUSSED: (A) CEMA'S PROPOSED
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COOPERATION AGREEMENT; (B) EC/IRAN RELATIONS; (C) THE

EC/TURKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL; (D) THE EIB LOAN TO YUGOSLAVIA; (E) AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING STATES; AND (F) UNCTAD. THE ABSENCE OF BELGIAN PRIME MINISTER TINDEMANS, WHOSE PLANE WAS UNABLE TO LAND DUE TO FOG, LED THE COUNCIL TO POSTPONE UNTIL A SPECIAL OCTOBER 30 MEETING, PRESENTLY SCHEDULED FOR THE HAGUE, DISCUSSIONS OF THE TINDEMANS REPORT. END SUMMARY.

2. FISHERIES QUESTIONS. THE MINISTERS WERE GREETED UPON ARRIVAL BY A GROUP OF SOME 20 IRISH FISHERMEN DEMONSTRATING IN FAVOR OF A 50-MILE EXCLUSIVE FISHING ZONE FOR IRELAND- A GRAPHIC REMINDER OF THE MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE CONFRONTING THE COUNCIL MEETING. THE MINISTERS' DISCUSSION OF FISHING MATTERS, DELAYED UNTIL AFTER UK FOREIGN SECRETARY CROSLAND'S ARRIVAL FROM LONDON, WAS HELD IN RESTRICTED SESSION, WITH ONLY THE MINISTERS THEMSELVES PRESENT FOR PART OF THE TIME. A WORKING GROUP WAS SUBSEQUENTLY ESTABLISHED TO EXAMINE OVERNIGHT, IN LIGHT OF THE MINISTERS' DISCUSSIONS, EACH OF THE THREE MAJOR ISSUES: (A) THE TIMING OF AN EXTENSION OF FISHING LIMITS TO 200 MILES; (B) THE PREPARATION OF DIRECTIVES FOR NEGOTIATION OF FRAMEWORK AGREEMENTS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES; AND (C) THE INTERNAL FISHING REGIME. THE WORKING GROUP IS TO REPORT BACK TO THE COUNCIL OCTOBER 19. ALTHOUGH LITTLE HAS EMERGED AS TO SPECIFIC POINTS RAISED BY THE MINISTERS, WHO FOR THE MOST PART MAINTAINED A SELF-IMPOSED SILENCE ON THEIR DISCUSSIONS, IRISH FOREIGN MINISTER FITZGERALD TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE HAD AGAIN STRESSED THAT PROGRESS ON EACH OF THE ELEMENTS OF FISHING POLICY WAS LINKED AND THAT THE IRISH GOVERNMENT REMAINS OPPOSED TO NEGOTIATIONS WITH THIRD COUNTRIES IN ADVANCE OF SATISFACTORY SETTLEMENT OF THE INTERNAL REGIME. AN IRISH PERMDEL OFFICIAL SUBSEQUENTLY INDICATED, HOWEVER, THAT HIS GOVERNMENT MIGHT BE PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH THE 200-MILE LIMIT DECLARATION EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, EVEN IF THERE WERE NO GREEN LIGHT ON THE OTHER TWO ISSUES.

3. EC/CEMA. THE MINISTERS AGAIN TOOK UP THE LONG-PENDING ISSUE OF RESPONSE TO CEMA'S PROPOSAL FOR A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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COOPERATION AGREEMENT. AS EXPECTED, THEY TOOK NO FINAL ACTION AND, AFTER WHAT SEVERAL SOURCES DESCRIBED AS PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSIONS, THEY REFERRED THE FILE BACK TO COREPER. BELGIAN FOREIGN MINISTER VAN ELSLANDE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT THERE HAD BEEN AGREEMENT ON ONE POINT--NAMELY THAT IN ANY EVENTUAL NEGOTIATIONS WITH CEMA THE EC WOULD INSIST ON DIRECT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE COMMUNITY, AS SUCH, AND INDIVIDUAL CEMA MEMBER STATES.

4. EC/IRAN. THE COUNCIL REACHED AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO NEGOTIATE A COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH IRAN. IT IS PREPARED TO CONSIDER A SPECIFIC NEGOTIATING MANDATE AT ITS NOVEMBER MEETING AND COREPER HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO WORK ON SPECIFIC TERMS OF THE MANDATE. ACCORDING TO A PERMDEL SOURCE, THE FRENCH FORMALLY DROPPED THEIR EARLIER OBJECTION TO THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSAL THAT IRAN BE ACCORDED GSP TREATMENT RATHER THAN A GRANT OF PREFERENTIAL TRADE CONCESSIONS. (SEE EC BRUSSELS 9421.)

5. EC/TURKEY. THE MINISTERS REVIEWED THE CURRENT STATE OF PLAY IN EFFORTS TO RESCHEDULE THE EC/TURKEY ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING. ACCORDING TO PERMDEL SOURCES, THE MINISTERS AGREED THAT THE EC SHOULD STAND BY ITS NEGOTIATING OFFER AND THAT NO FURTHER MATERIAL CONCESSIONS WERE POSSIBLE. VAN ELSLANDE SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD REPORTERS THAT THE PROBLEM IS NOW TO FIND WAYS TO MAKE COSMETIC CHANGES IN THE EC PACKAGE WHICH MIGHT MAKE IT MORE PALATABLE TO THE TURKS. THE FRG SPOKESMAN LAMBFDORFF STRESSED HIS GOVERNMENT'S VIEW THAT NO ASSOCIATION COUNCIL WAS BETTER THAN A BAD ONE. A PERMDEL SOURCE TOLD MISSION OFFICER THAT THE MINISTERS REGARDED THE CANCELLATION OF THE OCTOBER 16 ASSOCIATION COUNCIL MEETING AS A WARNING TO AVOID FIXING THE DATES FOR FUTURE MEETINGS VERY FAR IN ADVANCE. THIS SOURCE ALSO REPORTED THAT THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT WITHIN THE COUNCIL THAT THE TURKISH DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION WAS NOT NOW CONDUCIVE TO TALKS AND THAT ANY INITIATIVE FOR RESUMPTION OF TALKS SHOULD COME FROM THE TURKISH SIDE.

6. EIB LOAN TO YUGOSLAVIA. THE MINISTERS DISCUSSED AT LENGTH A PROBLEM WHICH HAS ARISEN THROUGH EIB REFUSAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO PROCEED WITH A 50-MILLION UNIT OF ACCOUNT (MUA) LOAN TO YUGOSLAVIA (FOR HIGHWAY CONSTRUCTION OR OTHER MUTUALLY AGREED PROJECTS) WITHOUT SUITABLE GUARANTEES FROM THE COMMUNITY (EC BRUSSELS 9680). TO POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED: A PRO MEMORIA INSCRIPTION IN THE 1977 EC BUDGET AND INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES GUARANTEES. THE SECOND ALTERNATIVE WHICH WOULD REQUIRE APPROVAL BY THE INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL PARLIAMENTS IS THOUGHT TO BE IMPRACTICAL. THE MINISTERS ARE EXPECTED TO DISCUSS THE PROBLEM AGAIN OCTOBER 19, AND PERHAPS AS WELL YUGOSLAVIA'S RECENT REQUEST FOR CONCLUSION OF A PROTOCOL TO THE EC/YUGOSLAVIA NON-PREFERENTIAL TRADE AGREEMENT TO FURTHER ENHANCE INDUSTRIAL AND ECONOMIC COOPERATION.

7. AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING STATES. THE

MINISTERS DISCUSSED THE 20 MILLION UNITS OF ACCOUNT SUM ADDED TO THE 1976 BUDGET BY THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT FOR AID TO NON-ASSOCIATED DEVELOPING STATES BUT WERE UNABLE TO ARRIVE AT A DECISION. THE DIFFERENCES CENTERED PRIMARILY ON THE TOTAL SUM INVOLVED. IT IS EXPECTED THAT THE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL WILL DISCUSS THIS MATTER ON NOVEMBER 9.

8. UNCTAD. THE MINISTERS TOOK NO ACTION ON THE COMMISSION'S PROPOSED LETTER TO UNCTAD SECRETARY GENERAL COREA CONCERNING THE PROPOSED COMMON FUND FOR COMMODITIES. THE FILE HAS BEEN RETURNED TO COREPER FOR FURTHER REVIEW.

9. NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE. THE MINISTERS RECEIVED A REPORT ON THE OCTOBER 7 EC EXPERTS MEETING AND THE OCTOBER 14 COREPER DISCUSSION ON CIEC, AS WELL AS A REPORT ON WELLENSTEIN'S DISCUSSIONS WITH US OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON. ACCORDING TO A PERMDEL SOURCE, THERE WAS AGREEMENT THAT IF THE DIALOGUE IS TO BE BROUGHT TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION AND IF G-8 EXPECTS TO CONTINUE AN ENERGY DIALOGUE AFTER CIEC HAS CONCLUDED, THE DEVELOPING STATES WILL HAVE TO BE MORE RESPONSIVE TO G-19 DEMANDS. MORRIS

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